

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinichi (JP 11-048856) in further view of Fujino et al. (USP 6,540,386). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Shinichi discloses, in Fig. 4, a front fender 6 of a vehicle having a flange that extends in a lateral direction of the vehicle. A hole 40 is formed in the flange. Shinichi also discloses a lamp unit 4 having a pin 32 extending from a lamp housing 16. Upon attaching the lamp unit 4 to the vehicle, the pin 32 is inserted in the hole 40.

Shinichi, however, does not have “positioning abutment parts provided in said lamp unit and said outer panel member, and said positioning abutment parts abut one another when said positioning projection has been inserted into said positioning hole, to thereby position said lamp unit at a predetermined location along a protruding direction of said positioning projection,” as recited in claim 1.

The Examiner relies on the Fujino reference to show a fastening member having a plurality of positioning projections.

Applicants respectfully submit, however, that even assuming that Shinichi and Fujino can be combined, which Applicants do not admit, Shinichi in view of Fujino fails to disclose or suggest the “positioning abutment parts” as recited in claim 1.

Claims 2-4 and 6-8, variously dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 5 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 5 and 9, however, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

A favorable determination by the Examiner and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

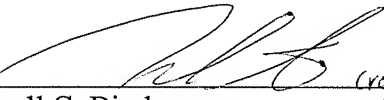
Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and objections, and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi (#40,417) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: October 30, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

for By  (reg. # 40,417)  
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